

## BRIDGEPORT EVENING FARMER

(FOUNDED 1790.)

Published by The Farmer Publishing Co., 179 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, Conn.  
DAILY... 50c month, \$6.00 per year || WEEKLY... \$1.00 per year in advancePHONE  
BUSINESS  
OFFICE  
1208.PHONE  
EDITORIAL  
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1267.

FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES

Bryant, Griffith & Friedrichs, New York, Boston and Chicago  
Only Evening Newspaper of Bridgeport Carrying  
Associated Press Service.

TUESDAY, FEB. 1, 1916.

## MR. KING'S POLITICAL METHOD

THE OPPOSITION to the double platoon system, offered on account of its cost, evidently is in a fair way to prevent the project from being realized.

The administration intends to swell the police department, this program to strengthen the municipal political machine not having attracted so much attention.

There is public need that justifies increasing the expense of the police department by a \$100,000. Such a sum, if expended, will have the effect of strengthening Mr. King's political leadership, and the further effect of making it a little harder for the ordinary man to get along.

The enormous boost in the cost of conducting the municipality, prevents the mass of citizens from sharing in the general prosperity. More is taken from them in rent and taxes, than they receive in higher wages.

An increase of \$1,000 in the valuation of a home, accompanied by a tax rate of 21 mills, is equivalent to taking more than one week's work, from the average worker in Bridgeport.

Assuming that it costs \$3,000 for a dwelling necessary to shelter a single family, and assuming that the head of the family earns \$20 a week, which in the majority of cases he will not, it requires under present conditions more than three weeks work merely to pay the taxes upon the home in which he lives.

The present way of doing things is simple enough. The politicians, desiring to control the power represented by possession of the municipal government, have welded the municipal employees into a compact fighting organization, which, shifting between the two great parties, gives dominance to the one with which its vote is cast.

A large number of citizens vote the Democratic ticket and nothing else. A large number of others vote the Republican ticket and nothing else.

A compact body of municipal employees, joined with other interests, thus can make the party victorious with which it joins.

This is the essence of Mr. King's very simple political method. No one understands better how much a machine is strengthened by the addition of more place holders, such as policemen, firemen and the like. But if a machine is strengthened by such methods the community is weakened. The self interest of the community will ultimately force it to override the self interest of the machine. The smaller cannot continually exist at the expense of the greater, without rendering adequate service.

## SPECIFY THE PAVEMENT

IT IS OUR judgment that the proper authorities of the city, when proposing bonds for street paving, proposed to be voted upon by the people at a special election should specify the pavement that in their judgment meets the city's needs and requirements.

Thus says the advisory committee, in proposing an issue of bonds for pavements.

That's fair enough. When the next bond offer for paving is issued specify Warrenite. Let the people know, what they are going to get. If the people vote for Warrenite, every objection will be hushed. The people pay, and they have a right to their choice.

But if the question is put "for pavement other than water bound macadam," for "bituminous macadam" or the like, there is deception. The voters do not know what they are going to get. They believe they will get the best pavement that can be had for money, in competition, in which the city receives the benefit of the lowest market price offered by a responsible bidder.

THE PRINCIPLE OF THE SPECIFIC QUESTION IS SOUND FOR GENERAL USE. EVERY QUESTION RAISING AN EXPENSE SHOULD STATE THE NATURE OF THE EXPENSE, AND THERE SHOULD BE IN EXISTENCE COMPLETE DESCRIPTIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE THINGS WHICH THE PEOPLE ARE ASKED TO PURCHASE.

Heretofore the authorities have not presented their demands fairly. If they intend to lay Warrenite, let them ask for an appropriation for Warrenite. If they intend to have competition, let that be specified.

## A TRIP TO HEAVEN

IT OUGHT TO take something more than the belief that one has made a trip to heaven to constitute insanity. Bunyan and Swedenborg could have been locked in mad houses if such visions had been received as proof of madness. The Bridgeport lady, who is in accusation, gives proof of some sort of sanity. When she tried to enter heaven, she was pushed down stairs. This is in accordance with things as we know them to be. When Europe had proceeded to a stage of prosperity where her people might be happy, everybody started to push everybody else down stairs. Mexico is doing the same, and Mr. Roosevelt wants to push the American people down stairs. The preference for down stairs regions is general, and always has been. Pretty nearly everybody seems to prefer the infernal regions, for the other fellow, at least.

## A TIRELESS ORATOR

HOWARD ELLIOTT, chairman of the board, is a tireless orator. His address to the Boston Art club ought to be most helpful to the members of that organization. Now that they have been improved by Mr. Elliott's views on art, will they not send an artist into Connecticut, and preferably into Bridgeport, to tell how to run a railroad. Railroadroading in Bridgeport is not art, but chaos; not order, but confusion. His company has lines, but no perspective. It has a vanishing point, however, into which its dividends have disappeared, and behind which its efficiency, and many commodities of a grosser sort, are out of sight.

## GET RID OF THE CABARET

REV. JOHN R. BROWN seems to be a man of judgment. He favors a properly conducted dance hall, in which there

will be proper supervision, and innocent mirth. Young people dance as naturally as the stars shine. Means for the gratification of a desire so fundamental should not be lacking. The wrong is not in the dancing, but in the environment of the dance hall, from which intoxicants should be excluded.

The cabaret is a dance hall of a very bad sort. It should be wiped out. The cabaret as it is for the most part conducted in Bridgeport, is not an amusement, but a peril.

## JEWISH RELIEF FUND

THE CONTRIBUTIONS to the Jewish relief fund here total over \$5,000. If the nation gives as generously, the total fund will pass \$5,000,000, which would be a creditable showing, considering America's private gifts for other war relief.

President Hall  
of Clark, 70 Today,  
Fails As Prophet

Dr. G. Stanley Hall, president of Clark University at Worcester, Mass., and famous as a psychologist, was born in Ashfield, Mass., three-score-and-ten years ago today. He received his education at Williams College, Union Theological Seminary, and the German universities of Berlin, Heidelberg, Bonn and Leipzig. Dr. Hall was a newspaper correspondent in Prussia during the Franco-German war, and he has made many visits to Germany. At the outbreak of the present war Dr. Hall expressed the opinion that the Central Empires would prove invincible, and late in August, 1914, he was quoted in the newspapers as predicting that the Teutons would reach Paris within a few weeks, and once there, impose an indemnity on the city so tremendous that it would amount to a state of vassalage.

"War is the Kaiser's pet study," said the eminent American psychologist, "and it is his ambition to emulate his grandfather, whose memory he idolizes. The Kaiser has made soldiering the acme of social life with himself at the head. Military service required of every man makes the army the poor man's university, where his very soul is shaped to obey and heated with the fire of patriotism, Germany is unjust and autocratic, but unconquerable."

From his knowledge gained by long residence in Germany, Dr. Hall declared that Germany's purposes in the war are, first, the development of the Pan-Germanic idea, as represented by the Pan-Slavic. "Germany knows that she can never conquer Russia, and that the Slavs must push westward sooner or later. She must also push westward at the expense of France, and as the Slavs unite, so all Teutons, probably including Holland and the Teutonic parts of Belgium and Switzerland, as well as Austria, must unite."

"Second, war strengthens royalty and favors centralization. The sudden development of democracy and parliaments even in Turkey, Persia, and other lands, the royalists, like the German Kaiser, believe, means disintegration and weakness, so that all democratic and republican principles will suffer a setback if Germany triumphs."

## WOOLWICH ARSENAL

Great Britain's oldest and most ancient arsenal is at Woolwich, Kent, and it is now a scene of unprecedented activity. The number of men employed has been increased about 400 per cent. since the outbreak of the war and included among the new workmen are representatives of all classes. The aged Lord Charlemont toils as an ordinary mechanic at a salary of 25 shillings, or about \$7 per week, but he ekes out his income with piece-work for which he has received as high as \$15 per week, and has never fallen below \$6. Another celebrity employed at Woolwich is the once famous bantamweight pugilist, Pedlar Palmer, who was champion until he met Terry McGovern near New York some sixteen years ago. The royal arsenal was established at Woolwich, on the site of a rabbit warren, nearly two centuries ago. Long before that Woolwich had been a naval arsenal. The magazines for explosives are widely separated from the other buildings, and each edifice in the danger section is isolated so that an explosion would be limited to the extent of the building and the grounds are closely guarded by a small army of men, and secret service agents are always on the alert, exercising a constant supervision of all strangers visiting the neighborhood. Before any person is permitted to enter the danger zone he must divest himself of matches, pen-knives, smoking materials and cigarette cases, and change to felt-soled shoes. One of the interesting sights is the "stove-house" where are to be found the great ovens in which lyddite and other explosives are "cooked." Other buildings are devoted to filling shells. There the liquid explosive is poured very carefully into the shell. It is a simple operation, requiring no great amount of skill, and the work is not hard, but for reasons not difficult to understand those who are assigned to the filling sheds are not particularly joyous.

## ST. BRIDGET

The first nun in Ireland was St. Bridget, whose is celebrated to-day by the Irish Catholics, who look upon her as sharing with St. Patrick the spiritual patronage of the Emerald Isle. While St. Patrick was a foreigner, St. Bridget was a native, and, according to legend, a daughter of one of the princes of Ulster. She was born at Mochar, in that province; and in her girlhood was remarkable for her piety. The mother of nunneries in Ireland is said to have been first called under a large oak about 400. On this site the first Irish nunnery eventually arose, and was called Kildara, or "cell of the oak." The first city of culture grew up about this religious center. The legend of St. Bridget recounts many miracles attributed to her. She was buried at Downpatrick, where the bodies of St. Patrick and St. Columba were also interred. St. Bridget's popularity spread in after years to England and Scotland, where she was called St. Bride.

General Villa, bandit chief, is reported to be surrounded by Carranzista forces near El Valle, Mexico.

## To Prevent The Grip

Colds cause Grip—Laxative Bromo Quinine removes the cause. There is only one "Bromo Quinine." E. W. GROVE'S signature on box, 25c.—Adv.

Groundhog Day  
Is Based on Indian  
Weather Lore

Of all the ancient superstitions connected with weather signs and omens, the most persistent is Candelmas or, as it is known on this side of the Atlantic, "Groundhog Day." A multitude of people are anxiously awaiting the morrow's meteorological developments, for it is on the second of February that the groundhog—who also travels under the names of woodchuck, marmot and scientifically, Arctomys Monax—is expected to issue from his winter quarters to cast a weatherwise eye about. If the groundhog sees his shadow, he realizes that winter is far from over, and he retires for another nap. If, on the contrary, the day is cloudy, Mr. Arctomys Monax decides that King Winter's back has been broken, and sallies forth in search of nourishment.

Groundhog Day is an American adaptation, based on Indian lore, of the ancient Scotch superstition connected with the second of February, and which is expressed in the following couplet:

"On Candelmas day, if the sun appear,  
There'll be two winters in the year."

While the groundhog has really nothing to do with Candelmas, nor Candelmas with the groundhog, it is declared that the Indians of long ago did find the little animal a fairly accurate weather prophet. The redskins under aboriginal conditions were close students of the habits of birds and animals, and they depended upon the furrow and feathered tribe to provide them with advance information on the weather.

According to the Indian traditions, it was observed that at the first onslaught of winter the groundhogs burrowed into their holes. Their remains for two moons, or a period of eight weeks. At the expiration of that period the animals again appeared on the surface. The Indians watched closely for their appearance, and, if the animals remained above ground, they concluded that winter was practically over. If, on the contrary, the groundhogs soon disappeared into their holes, it was looked upon as an indication of further severe weather.

This faith in the wisdom of the groundhog is supposed to have originated in Ohio and western Pennsylvania, where woodchucks were numerous, and to have been spread thence by the trappers and hunters to other parts of the country. The Indians of that section explained their confidence in the groundhog by saying that when cold weather sets in and continues with little or no intermission for two moons, an early Spring is indicated. If, on the contrary, mild weather prevails in the early part of winter and up to February, that month and March are likely to be productive of little joy to anybody but coal dealers and boys who have skates and sleds. There is, of course, some basis for this belief, but the association of the groundhog with the Candelmas festival on the second of February is but another example of the human tendency to graft new superstitions on old ones.

The Christian festival of Candelmas which commemorates the Purification of the Virgin, is thought to be a continuation of the pagan feast of the February or purification of the people, which was celebrated in February of each year in ancient Rome. The Pennsylvania town of Punxsutawney, forty-five miles northwest of Altoona, is the shrine of the groundhog. Groundhog Day has long been celebrated as a mid-winter fete in that village, and it is the center of information for all the lore and legends connected with Arctomys Monax and his annual visitation.

FUNERAL DESIGNS AND  
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Large line of Raincoats, Rubber Coats, Rubber Hats, Rubber Blankets, Rubber Gloves, Rubber Aprons, Oiled Coats, Oiled Pants, Oiled Jackets.

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Fifty Dresses that once were \$16.50 and \$25.00  
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Twenty Dresses that once were \$16.50  
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The materials are Crepe de Chines, Taffetas, Velvet and Taffeta combinations and Velvets that are trimmed with fur.

All Wool Serge Dress Skirts, black and navy.  
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At 23c—Columbia shades complete with extra fine fixtures  
At 8c—White cottage rods with silvered ball fixtures.  
At 8c—Three razor blades for Gem or Ever Ready Razor.  
At 45c—Fine quality seamless sheets for single beds.  
At 8c—Patent dime savings banks.  
At 17c—White table oil cloth.  
At 5c—Six pieces carpenter's blue chalk.

Notice to Personal  
Taxpayers.

Notice is hereby given to the personal tax payers of the City of Bridgeport that the PERSONAL TAX on the list of 1915 is due and payable Feb. 1st, 1916, at the Tax Collectors Office, Room 6, City Hall. The undersigned will be at his office Feb. 1st, 1916, and daily thereafter, Sundays excepted from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. and Saturdays from 9 a. m. to 12 m. for the purpose of collecting said tax.

HOWARD F. SMITH, Tax Collector.

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